

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A process is defined which maintains in a host
repository, such as a flat file or a database, a record
of configuration information for a plurality of data
processing hosts in a distributed system, such as a test
system. Configuration information comprises details of
products installed on the host and details of how such
10 installed products are configured. Program requirements
which contain the host configuration requirements of a
program, such as a test program, to be executed are then
obtained and compared with the host information in the
host repository in order to identify a host that is
15 capable of executing the program. One of these hosts is
then selected and the program is executed on it.